

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-41. (canceled)

42. (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid molecule which comprises a nucleotide sequence that

(a) encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant thereof at least 90% identical thereto, which variant is immunoreactive with at least one antibody that specifically binds the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; or

(b) encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE5 deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207129;

(c) encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE9 deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207084;

(d) comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide residue number 6 through nucleotide residue number 2138 or a full-length variant of said nucleotide sequence from positions 6-2138 that hybridizes to the complement of said nucleotide sequence under stringent conditions correcting to wash at 0.1 x SSC containing EDTA at 55°C; or

comprises a nucleotide sequence complementary to the entire length of the nucleotide sequences designated in paragraphs (a)-(d).

43. (currently amended): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 which comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant thereof at least 90% identical thereto, which variant is immunoreactive with at least one antibody that specifically binds the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

44. (currently amended): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 43 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

45. (currently amended): The nucleic acid of claim 42 which comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE5 deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207129 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

46. (currently amended): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 which comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE9 deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207084 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

47. (currently amended): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 which comprises a nucleotide sequence that comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide residue number 6 through nucleotide residue number 2138 or a full-length variant of said nucleotide sequence from positions 6-2138 that hybridizes to said nucleotide sequence under stringent conditions or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

48. (currently amended): The nucleic acid molecule of ~~claim 48~~ claim 47 which comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide residue number 6 through nucleotide residue number 2138 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

49. (previously presented): A recombinant expression system which comprises the nucleotide sequence contained in the nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 operably linked to control sequences for expression.

50. (previously presented): Recombinant host cells comprising the expression system of claim 49.

51. (previously presented): A method to produce a protein having the characteristics of 24P4C12 which method comprises culturing the cells of claim 50 under conditions for expression, and optionally recovering said protein.